



# **The Army Medical Library**

## **Classification**

**AN INFORMATIONAL OUTLINE**



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## INTRODUCTION

The Army Medical Library Classification has been developed under the direction of a Classification Committee, composed of representatives of the Army Medical Library, the Library of Congress and the Survey Committee and was made possible by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation. The work has been done by Miss Mary Louise Marshall, in close cooperation with specialists in the respective medical subjects.

It has been a basic provision in the development of the classification that the new schedules should have the benefit of an experimental try-out in the Army Medical Library, with the adjustment and revision consequent to that process, before being made available for use elsewhere. Since the cataloging of the medical libraries of the VA is to be directed by the Catalog Division of the Army Medical Library, present use of the classification is being extended to these medical libraries. This outline has been prepared to serve as an informational guide for the medical librarians of the VA. It is not to be used in the actual classification of books by this new system. For further and more specific information, questions should be addressed to the Catalog Division of the Army Medical Library.

This classification is correlated with that of the Library of Congress, and for its location within this system, assignment has been made of a block of letters previously unused (QS - QZ and W), since it was found to be impossible to incorporate into a revision of the former tables for Medicine (QM - QR and R), the advantageous features planned for the new tables. The general schedules of the Library of Congress classification are thus available for the arrangement of all material of a nature not strictly medical. The order of the new tables is that advised by the consulting medical specialists.

The tables QS - QZ and W are thus completely new. They include a number of schemes for subjects for which insufficient or no provision had previously been made. Uniform notation has been devised for form divisions and other types of general material in each class, thereby making it easier for users to familiarize themselves with the classification. Provision has been made for standard subdivisions whenever necessary, through the use of floating tables. The etiologic classification of the Standard Nomenclature of Disease\* has been incorporated into the classification in such a way that this widely used index may serve the librarian as a guide to the classification of books on pathological conditions. And finally, items relating to a single anatomic structure have been grouped together (anatomy, physiology, hygiene and diseases). The spread of the classification has enabled this to be accomplished with comparatively short class marks; only occasionally do numbers run to four digits.

Explanation of the Medical Classification. The style of the notation is that of the Library of Congress classification, a combination of capital letters followed by serial numbers. The letters assigned for the new medical classification are:

### QS - QZ Preclinical Sciences

QS Human anatomy, histology, embryology  
and physical anthropology  
QT Physiology  
QT Biochemistry  
QV Pharmacology  
QW Bacteriology  
QX Parasitology  
QY Immunology  
QZ Pathology

### Medicine and Related Subjects

W Medicine, General  
WA Public health  
WB Practice of medicine, General  
WC Body as a whole  
WD Regions of the body  
WE Musculo-skeletal system  
Integumentary system  
WF Respiratory system

### Medicine and Related Subjects (Cont.)

WG Cardiovascular system  
Hemic and Lymphatic system  
WI Digestive system  
WJ Urogenital system  
WK Endocrine system  
WL Nervous system  
WM Psychiatry  
WN Radiology  
WO Surgery  
WP Gynecology  
Sex. Reproduction  
Obstetrics  
WS Pediatrics  
Adolescence  
WT Geriatrics  
WU Oral surgery and dentistry  
WV Otorhinolaryngology  
WW Ophthalmology  
WX Hospitals  
WY Nursing

\* Jordan, E. P., ed.: *Standard nomenclature of disease and standard nomenclature of operations.* Amer. med. assn. 1943. pp1022



It should be noted that because of the policy to group together all aspects of a single body structure, class QS is automatically limited to material dealing with human anatomy, histology and embryology in general, and QT to physiology in general; whereas the anatomy of a specific system, such as the respiratory system, is classified in WF, the anatomy of the heart in WG, etc.

Biochemistry, formerly a part of the section on physiology, is given a separate schedule immediately adjacent to physiology. Pharmacology, formerly classed with therapeutics and materia medica is now considered a basic science, as distinct from therapeutics, closely related to physiology and biochemistry, and is so located in the new scheme. Bacteriology and parasitology are given separate schedules in adjacent location, closely followed by the newly developing and closely related subject of immunology. Pathology, formerly classed with clinical medicine, is transferred to the preclinical sciences, in accordance with medical thought of today.

In the early parts of W, provision has been made for the classification of material on medical education and research, medical licensure, medical ethics, social relations of the physician, types of medical practice, medical economics, medical service plans (including so-called socialized medicine), and special collections of material having to do with physicians and medicine in non-medical fields.

A scheme for the arrangement of material on the history of medicine is provided, either in W as part of the general classification, or as is planned for the Army Medical Library, in a separate history collection.

The schedule for medical jurisprudence is limited to the application of medical and dental knowledge to legal problems. Material on laws relating to special medical subjects such as public health, medical licensure, malpractice, hospitals, the mentally ill, etc., is assigned to a uniform location in the respective schedules devoted to those subjects.

The section WA Public health, provides for the classification of material on public health law, vital statistics, preventive medicine, sanitation and sanitary control, the control of infectious disease, accident prevention, health problems of special population groups, industrial hygiene, and health organization and administration.

WB is devoted to the practice of medicine in general, including general diagnosis and therapeutics. Numbers are provided for the arrangement of material on clinical diagnosis, dietotherapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc. Following these is a scheme for the classification of items on medical geography, climatology and meteorology, including the effect of hot and cold climates and high and low air pressure on the human organism.

Sections WC - WL provide for the arrangement of material on the body as a whole, regions of the body, and systems of the body.

Throughout the classification, theoretical logic in grouping has, whenever necessary, been sacrificed in favor of practical usage. This is clearly shown in the segregation of certain classes by medical specialty rather than strictly by body region or system. For instance, WV is devoted to otorhinolaryngology and includes the nose (respiratory system), pharynx (digestive system) and ear (organs of special sense). In practice these organs are treated in one specialty; hence the grouping in the classification. Likewise, WJ Urogenital system is made to include only the male and female urinary system and the male genital system, thus conforming to the usage found in the medical specialty urology. The classification of the female genital system is in WP, where it is adjacent to obstetrics, since the specialties of gynecology and obstetrics are not only closely related, but are often combined in the subject treated.

WM Psychiatry follows WL Nervous system, with which it is closely related. WN Radiology, for which no adequate provision had been made in the older classification, precedes WO Surgery. It should be noted that WN Radiology and WO Surgery, like the schemes for anatomy and physiology, are for the classification of these subjects only in their general aspects. Radiotherapy of a given organ and surgery of a system or organ are classed with the system or organ treated.



The age groups, WS pediatrics and Adolescence and WT Geriatrics, a new field, follow in succession.

The schedule WV Otorhinolaryngology stands between its natural neighbors WU Oral surgery and dentistry and WW Ophthalmology, all three being distinct specialties in medical practice.

The classification finishes with WX Hospitals and WY Nursing. The letters WH, WQ, WR and WZ are left open for the possible preparation of schedules on completely new subjects, should need arise in the future.

Every effort has been made to choose terminology in accordance with accepted usage. Common synonyms are noted and indexed throughout.

Uniformity in order and in notation is provided for general types of material in each schedule by the assignment of the numbers 1-32 to the same aspects of a subjects throughout the classification. Thus 3 stands for congresses in the uniform assignment of numbers; so a surgical congress is classified WO 3, a dental congress WU 3, a congress on orthopedics WE 3 and a congress on obstetrics WP 1203. Likewise 32 is for laws relating to a subject; so WY 32 is for laws relating to nursing, QS 132 is for laws relating to dissection, and WA 32 is for laws relating to public health.

Table R constitutes a second means of providing uniformity as well as a means of grouping in logical order all items relating to the anatomy, physiology, diseases and therapeutics of a specific anatomic structure. Thus WG 101 is Anatomy of the cardiovascular system and WG 201 is Anatomy of the heart, the letters representing the system, the first figure representing the specific structure of that system, and the last two digits representing the phase considered. Likewise, WF 602 is Physiology of the lungs, WU 202 is Physiology of the teeth, WI 402 is Physiology of the stomach, etc.

In this table the numbers -40 through -59 represent diseases<sup>1</sup> of an anatomic structure and their treatment, as follows:

- 40 Diseases
  - e. g., WG 240 Heart diseases (general)
  - WJ 340 Diseases of the kidney (general)
- 41 Examination, diagnosis and diagnostic methods
  - e. g. WG 241 Diagnosis of heart disease
  - WJ 341 Examination of the kidney
- 42 Pathology
  - e. g. WG 242 Pathology of the heart
  - WJ 342 Pathology of the kidney
- 43 through -49 Manifestations of diseases; conditions of mixed or varied etiology. (These numbers are for individual assignment under respective organs or anatomic structures)
  - e. g. WG 243 Cardiac insufficiency; Paroxysmal dyspnea
  - WG 244 Cardiac arrhythmia; auricular fibrillation
  - WG 246 Coronary thrombosis
  - WJ 344 Pyelitis
  - WJ 345 Kidney cyst
  - WJ 346 Nephrosis
  - WJ 347 Nephritis
- It should be noted that all the conditions noted in these sections are either symptoms of disease or diseases of varied etiology.
- 50 through -59 Etiologic classification
  - These numbers represent the incorporation into the classification of the etiologic table of the Standard Nomenclature of Disease.
  - 50 Diseases due to prenatal influence
  - 51 Diseases due to lower plant or animal organisms
  - 52 Diseases due to higher plant or animal organisms
  - 53 Diseases due to intoxication
  - 54 Diseases due to trauma or physical agents
  - 55 Diseases secondary to circulatory disturbance
  - 55.5 Diseases due to disturbance of innervation or of psychic control
  - 56 Diseases due to or consisting of static mechanical abnormality due to unknown cause (obstruction, calculus, displacement or gross change in form)

<sup>1</sup> The term 'disease' is here used in its broadest sense, referring to any deviation from the normal or from a state of health.



- 57 Diseases due to disorder of metabolism, growth or nutrition
- 58 Neoplastic diseases
- 59 Diseases due to unknown or uncertain cause
  - e. g. WG 251 Bacterial carditis
  - 254 Rupture, wounds of the heart
  - 255 Arteriosclerotic heart disease
  - 255.5 Neurogenic arrhythmia
  - 257 Hyperthyroid heart
  - WJ 351 Glomerulonephritis
  - 355 Nephrosclerosis
  - 356 Kidney stone
  - 358 Neoplasms of the kidney

Such a correlation with the Standard Nomenclature of Disease makes it possible for librarians to use this widely accepted classification, devised for the arrangement of hospital records, as a guide to the etiologic grouping of books on the shelves. Actually the disease index of the Standard Nomenclature of Disease by such a correlation becomes a supplement to the Index to this classification scheme, providing the only key to the location of a condition not specifically placed in the text of these schedules.

Therapeutics is represented in Table R by -66 through -69, as follows:

- 66 Therapeutics
- 67 Medical therapy
- 68 Surgical therapy
- 69 Other forms of therapy

Thus:

- WG 267 Medical therapy of heart disease
- 268 Surgery of the heart
- WI 467 Medical therapy of gastric disorders
- 468 Surgery of the stomach
- WE 869 Radium in diseases of the skin
- WL 169 Physical therapy of nervous disorders

The following suggestions are made to enable one to become familiar with the new medical classification:

1. Study carefully the explanation of the classification scheme in the Introduction.
2. Become familiar with the main subject classes.
3. Study Table R, which is used throughout the scheme for the subdivision of material relating to anatomic structures.
4. Study the correlation of the etiologic table of the Standard Nomenclature of Disease with the classification of diseases in the schedules.

## SUMMARIZED OUTLINE OF THE CLASSIFICATION TABLES

QS - QU  
 QS HUMAN ANATOMY, HISTOLOGY AND EMBRYOLOGY. PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY.

	<u>Human Anatomy</u>	
1-28	General works	
124	Comparative anatomy	
130-32	Dissection	
	<u>Histology</u>	
504-32	General works	
	<u>Human Embryology</u>	
604-25	General works	
641-47	Special topics	
650	Physiologic embryology	
691-98	Teratology	
	<u>Physical Anthropology</u>	
704	General works	
742	Prehistoric races	
743-44	Modern races	
746-48	Origin of man	
749	Migration of races	
751-58	Anthropometry	
766-970	Dimensions. Proportions.	

### QT PHYSIOLOGY

1-33	General physiology	
34	Biophysics	
104-26	Human physiology	

### QU BIOCHEMISTRY

1-26	General works	
50-97	Chemistry of food substances	
100-15	Composition of the organism	
120-33	Metabolism	
135-41	Enzymes	
145-59	Nutrition	
160-220	Vitamins and vitamin requirements	



QV - QW

QV PHARMACOLOGY

- 1-34 General works
- 38-59 Drug action
- 60-79 Drugs acting on the skin and mucous membranes
- 80-93 Depressants of the central nervous system
- 100-09 Stimulants of the central nervous system
- 110-17 Agents of local anesthesia
- 120-39 Drugs acting on the autonomic effector cells
- 140 Drugs acting on the skeletal muscle
- 150-59 Drugs acting on the cardiovascular system
- 160 Diuretics and antidiuretics
- 170-79 Drugs acting on the reproductive system
- 180-89 Drugs acting on blood cells and blood forming organs
- 190-95 Drugs affecting blood coagulation
- 200-19 Preparations producing immunity
- 240-49 Antiseptics and disinfectants
- 250-69 Preparations used in chemotherapy of infectious diseases
- 270-79 Water and inorganic ions
- 280 Gases
- 290 Heavy metals and metalloids
- 300-19 Drugs of endocrine origin

QW BACTERIOLOGY

- 1-26 General works
- 51-115 Bacteria: their chemical and physical properties, classification, metabolism, morphology, physiology, variability, etc.
- 120-55 Systematic bacteriology
- 200-855 Bacteria of medical importance
- 900 Viruses
- 950 Rickettsia
- 1000-50 Spirochetes
- 1200-50 Fungi



## QX PARASITOLOGY

- 1-42 General works  
 50-179 Protozoa  
 200-451 Helminths  
 460-520 Arthropods

## QY IMMUNOLOGY

- 1-26 General works  
 40-65 Immunity  
 70-205 Antigens and antibodies  
 210-27 Infection and the mechanism of infection  
 230 Virulence and invasiveness  
 301-93 Anaphylaxis and allergy

## QZ PATHOLOGY

- 1-28 General works  
 30 Comparative pathology  
 35 Autopsies  
 40-125 Pathogenesis of disease  
 140-90 Manifestations of disease  
 200-460 Neoplastic diseases

## W GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL RELATING TO MEDICINE &amp; PHYSICIANS

- 1-97 General works  
 100-275 Medical service plans  
 303-25 Miscellanies on the profession  
 330-455 Medicine and physicians in non-medical fields  
 601-925 Medical and dental jurisprudence  
 1000-600 Medical history and its source material  
     General works  
     History of medicine, by period  
     Medical biography, collective, individual and by period  
     Medical history and biography, by country  
     Medical bibliography  
     Rare books  
     Manuscripts



# WA - WB

## WA PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1-31 General works
- 32-492 Public health documents
- Public health. Preventive medicine
- 500-658 By country
- 670-859 Sanitation and sanitary control
- 900-1148 Control on infectious diseases
- 1150-89 Accident prevention
- 1200-95 Health problems of special population groups
- 1300-410 Industrial hygiene
- 1425-97 Health administration and organization

## WB PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- 1-100 General works
- 141-600 General diagnosis, including prognosis
  - Manifestations of disease
  - Physical diagnosis
  - Diagnosis by laboratory methods. Clinical diagnosis
- 700-1360 General therapeutics, materia medica and pharmacy
  - Materia medica
  - Pharmacy
  - Therapeutics
    - Use of drugs grouped by effect
    - Administration of medicine and other therapeutic procedures, including instruments
    - Dietotherapy
    - Climatotherapy
    - Physical therapy
    - Music therapy
    - Occupational therapy
    - Special cures and cults
    - Special systems of therapeutics
- 1500-75 Geography of disease
- 1600-3040 Medical climatology and meteorology. Relation of air pressure, altitude, climate, moisture, weather, etc. to general health



## WC BODY AS A WHOLE

- 100-08 General works on the body as a whole. Constitution.
- 113-39 Personal hygiene
  - Diseases, in general, grouped by etiology
- 250-90 Diseases due to prenatal influence
- 351-444 Diseases due to lower plant or animal organism
- 452-515 Diseases due to higher plant or animal organism
- 553-680 Diseases due to intoxication
  - Poisons and poisoning
- 755.5 - 800 Diseases due to disturbance of innervation or of psychic control
- 856 Diseases due to or consisting of static mechanical abnormality
- 857-939 Diseases due to or associated with disorders of metabolism
- 958 Neoplastic diseases, in general or generalized
- 1059-79 Diseases due to unknown or uncertain cause

## WD REGIONS OF THE BODY

- 100-269 Head, including cranium
- 300-469 Neck, thorax, thoracic wall and mediastinum
- 500-769 Abdomen, abdominal wall, pelvis
  - Other areas of the trunk
- 800-69 Trunk
- 900-1169 Back
- 1200-69 Peritoneum and serous sacs
- 1300-69 Superficial fossae
- 1400-2469 Extremities
  - Upper extremity
  - Lower extremity



WE - WG

WE MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM. INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM

Musculo-skeletal System

1-169	General and combined structures
200-69	Bones
300-69	Joints, including cartilages
400-69	Bursas
500-69	Muscles
600-69	Diaphragm
700-69	Tendons and tendon sheaths. Fascia

Integumentary System

800-69	Skin and combined structures
900-59	Glands of the skin
1000-66	Hair
1100-69	Nails
1200-69	Breast

WF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

1-169	General works
500-69	Bronchi and bronchioles
600-69	Lungs
700-69	Pleura

WG CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM. HEMIC AND LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

Cardiovascular System

1-169	General works
200-69	Heart
300-59	Arteries
400-59	Veins
500-59	Capillaries

Hemic and Lymphatic System

600-69	Blood forming organs
700-69	Blood and lymph
800-69	Spleen
900-69	Lymphatic channels
1000-69	Lymph nodes and lymphatic tissue

## WI DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

1-169	General works
200-69	Lips, mouth, tongue and salivary glands
300-69	Esophagus
400-69	Stomach
500-869	Intestines
900-69	Liver and biliary tract
1000-69	Pancreas

## WJ UROGENITAL SYSTEM

1-169	General works
	<u>Urinary System (Male and Female)</u>
200-69	General works
300-69	Kidney
400-69	Ureter
500-69	Bladder
600-69	Urethra
	<u>Genital System (Male)</u>
700-69	General works
800-69	Prostate and seminal vesicles
900-69	Penis
1000-69	Scrotum and Skin of external genitals
1100-69	Spermatic cord and Vas deferens
1200-69	Epididymis
1300-69	Testis and Tunica vaginalis

## WK ENDOCRINE SYSTEM

1-169	General works
200-69	Thyroid
300-69	Parathyroid
400-69	Thymus
500-69	Pituitary
600-69	Pineal
700-69	Adrenal
800-69	Insular tissue
900-69	Carotid



WL - WN

WL NERVOUS SYSTEM

- 1-169 General works
- 200-59 Coverings
- 300-69 Brain
- 400-69 Spinal cord and nerve roots. Vessels of the spinal cord
- 500-69 Peripheral nerves
- 600-69 Vegetative nervous system
- 700-45 Special senses (with the exception of sight and hearing)

WM PSYCHIATRY

- 1-141 General works
- 170-90 Neuroses
- 200-60 Psychoses
- 266-98 Therapeutics in psychiatry
- 300-69 Mental deficiencies
- 400-69 The epilepsies
- 500-88 Character and behavior disorders
  - Drug addiction
- 600-30 Military psychiatry

WN RADIOLOGY

- 1-99 General works
  - Roentgenology
- 100 General works
- 110-99 Physics of roentgenology. Technique.
- 200-20 Roentgen rays in diagnosis
- 250-90 Roentgenotherapy
  - Radium
- 300 General works
- 310-25 Physics of radium. Technique.
- 340-50 Radium therapy
  - Other radioactive elements
- 400 General works
- 410-25 Physics of other radioactive elements
- 440-43 Use in medicine

## WO SURGERY

- 1-75 General works
- 100-49 General surgery
- 160-91 Surgical procedure and armamentarium
- 192-98 Minor surgery. Electrosurgery
- 200-450 Anesthesia
  - General
  - Regional
  - Local
- 500-40 Operative surgery
- 600-40 Plastic surgery
- 650 Emergency surgery
- 675-724 Traumatic surgery
- 750-60 Industrial surgery
- 775-908 Surgery of war and catastrophe
- 1100-10 Surgery in special medical conditions
- 1125 Surgery in infants and children
- 1150 Surgery in old age

## WP GYNECOLOGY. SEX. REPRODUCTION. OBSTETRICS

Gynecology

- 1-169 General works
- 200-69 Vulva
- 300-69 Vagina
- 400-69 Cervix uteri and uterus
- 500-69 Oviduct (fallopian tube)
- 600-69 Ovary
- 700-69 Pelvic supporting structures
- 800-40 Bony pelvis (symphysis pubis)

Sex

- 1000-65 General works

Human Reproduction

- 1100-50 General works



WP - WV

WP GYNECOLOGY. SEX. REPRODUCTION. OBSTETRICS--CONTINUED

Obstetrics

1200-759 General works

1280-450 Pregnancy

1500-680 Parturition

1700-59 Puerperium

WS PEDIATRICS. ADOLESCENCE

Pediatrics

1-28 General works

100-369 Children, their care and diseases

400-69 Infants, their care and diseases

Adolescence

501-900 General works

WT GERIATRICS

1-400 General works

WU ORAL SURGERY AND DENTISTRY

1-169 General works

200-69 Teeth and gums. Jaws

300-77 Operative dentistry

400-69 Orthodontia

500-30 Prosthetic dentistry

550 Pedodontia

600-25 Dentistry in systemic or organic disease

WV OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY •

1-169 General works

The deaf (social and economic aspects)

200-559 Ear

600-69 Nose and accessory sinuses

700-69 Throat (pharynx)

800-69 Tonsils and adenoids

900-69 Larynx, epiglottis, vocal cords

1000-69 Trachea

1100-11 Intracranial complications of diseases of the ear, nose and throat

## WW OPTHALMOLOGY

- 1-179 General works
- 40-79 Blindness and the blind (social and economics aspects)
- 200-51 Eyeball
- 300-59 Cornea and sclera
- 400-59 Uvea
- 500-59 Crystalline lens
- 600-59 Vitreous
- 700-59 Retina and optic nerve
- 760-64 Glaucoma and hypertonia
- 770-80 Refraction and errors of refraction
- 785 Aniseikonia
- 790-96 Spectacles
- 798 Artificial eyes
- 800-59 Neuromuscular mechanism for binocular vision
- 900-69 Orbit
- 1000-69 Eyelids
- 1100-59 Lacrimal tract
- 1200-59 Conjunctiva

## WX HOSPITALS

- 1-100 General works
- 140-47 Planning and construction
- 150-81 Administration and organization
- 200-27 Medical and surgical departments
- 300-801 Hospitals by country. Hospital reports

## WY NURSING

- 1-100 General works
- 101-45 Specialization in nursing
- 150-97 Nursing in special fields of medicine



WV OPTICOMLOGY

1-15	General works
40-75	Thickness and the field (special and economic aspects)
500-51	E. shell
500-52	Cornea and sclera
400-53	Lens
500-54	Optic nerve
600-55	Vitreous
700-56	Retina and optic nerve
750-57	Glaucoma and hypertension
770-58	Refraction and errors of refraction
78	Anisometropia
790-59	Spectacles
800	Artificial eyes
800-60	Measurement of refraction for spectacle vision
800-61	Contact
1000-62	Exotics
1100-63	Lacrimal tract
1200-64	Conjunctiva

WV HOSPITALS

1-100	General works
150-47	Planning and construction
150-51	Administration and organization
150-52	Medical and surgical departments
200-801	Hospital of County Hospital records

WV NURSING

1-100	General works
101-48	Specialization in nursing
150-97	Nursing in special fields of practice